

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Tennessee State Library and Archives

other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number 403 Seventh Avenue North

☐ N/A not for publication

city or town Nashville

☐ N/A vicinity

stat Tennessee
e _____

code TN

county Davidson

code 037

zip code 37243

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☐ public-local
☒ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: library

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Neoclassical

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls STONE: Marble and BRICK

roof ASPHALT/Gravel

other Aluminum

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** moved from its original location.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1953

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Parrent, H. Clinton, Jr.
Rock City Construction Company ("Jack" Lee)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☒ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Tennessee State Library and Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.4 acres Nashville West 308 NE

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 519300 4002118
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____
☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ted Karpynec
organization NA date June 5, 2003
street & number 1865 Air Lane Drive Suite 9 telephone 615.884.4430
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37210

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name State of Tennessee, c/o Edwin S. Gleaves, State Librarian and Archivist
street & number 403 Seventh Avenue North telephone 615/741-7996
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37243

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Tennessee State Library and Archives
Davidson County, Tennessee

DESCRIPTION

The Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) building is located at 403 Seventh Avenue North in the heart of downtown Nashville. Designed by Nashville architect H. Clinton Parrent, Jr. and completed in 1953, the building not only functions as a library and repository for the state's historical documents, but also acts as a memorial to Tennesseans who served in World War II. The Neoclassical style building features three and a half-stories supported within a steel and reinforced concrete frame sheathed with a veneer of white Tennessee marble panels and brick. A flat roof caps the building, which is accented by fifteen inscription panels along the attic level containing quotes from noted political leaders and public documents of the state. Each inscription panel and its contributor are listed on pages 7-6 through 7-8. An original eight-story extension, centrally attached to the rear of the building provides, the TSLA with its current T-shape plan. As a late example of its style, the building retains a high degree of architectural integrity and with the exception of minor interior modifications, appears relatively unaltered since its date of construction. The TSLA is located on the western slope of Capitol Hill among a series of state buildings, including the State Capitol Building (NR 1970, NHL 11/11/71) to the east and the Tennessee State Supreme Court and War Memorial Building to the south. Resting on a well-maintained lot dotted with Pin Oaks, the main entrance of the building is accessible via a concrete walkway that leads to a series of granite steps.

Facing east, the facade is dominated by a projecting central bay featuring an entrance portico buttressed by six unfluted Ionic columns highlighted with Ionic capitals. The columns support an entablature crowned with a dentiled cornice that is topped with a stepped parapet wall accented with decorative scrollwork. An inscription on the entablature's frieze reads: "1854 State Library and Archives 1952". Located at the attic level above the portico is the main inscription panel, which reads:

THIS BUILDING IS DESIGNED AS
"A LASTING MEMORIAL TO THE
CITIZENS OF TENNESSEE WHO
SERVED
IN WORLD WAR II."

The panel is flanked on the north and south respectively by a scroll and open book relief. Topping the entire length of the attic level is a parapet wall capped with coping consisting of marble blocks. Access to the building is achieved via three pairs of original multi-light aluminum doors separated by decorative aluminum grilles accented with ornamental rosettes. Providing additional adornment to the entranceway is a full-length multi-light aluminum transom. The transom contains open book motifs and a series of plaques representing each branch of the military, which are flanked by chaplain crosses. An aluminum surround embellished with decorative rosettes borders the doors and transoms. Symmetrically situated above the doors on the second story are three window openings containing a pair of single-pane aluminum casement sash accompanied by transoms. Flanking this window arrangement are two smaller, single- pane, aluminum casement windows.

The north and south elevations of the projecting bay are pierced by two staggered window openings containing a pair of single-pane aluminum casement sash. The arrangement of these windows indicates the location of the main staircases, which flank the vestibule. A window on the second floor contains the same

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sash type, but is topped with a multi-light transom. Extending from the central portico are flanking wings composed of four bays separated by a pair of unadorned pilasters and pierced by a pair of single-pane, aluminum casement windows on the first and second stories. An additional bay, without the attic level, found on a slightly recessed extension attached to the north and south elevations is punctured by a single window opening on the first and second stories containing the same sash type. Marking the division between the third story and the attic level is an unadorned entablature and cornice, which runs the length of the facade and continues along the north and south elevations.

Both the north and south elevations of the main block are distinguished by the two-story extensions that are accented with two bays divided by a centrally placed pilaster. Each bay features a pair of single-pane aluminum casement sashes topped with multi-light transoms on the first and second stories. As a result of the sloping topography, the ground level of the building is exposed along both elevations, revealing two pairs of additional windows containing the same sash type. Unlike the main block, the extensions do not support the inscription bearing attic level. Instead, a blank entablature and accompanying cornice are topped with a limestone parapet wall.

The west (rear) elevation of the building is dominated by an original eight-deck extension that is centrally attached to the main block. In order to prevent the rear extension from overshadowing the main block, each deck is seven and a half feet tall, which allows for two decks for every corresponding floor located within the main block. Utilized primarily as a service and maintenance area, the appearance of the rear elevation contrasts sharply with the decorative formality of the building's facade. Both the rear elevation of the main block and extension are sheathed with a veneer of yellow brick. The main block is pierced by two bays of windows containing a pair of single-pane aluminum casement sashes topped with multi-light transoms on the ground and first stories. Each deck of the rear extension is marked by two bays of narrow window openings containing two-over-two, double-hung, metal sash windows situated on its north and south elevation, while the west elevation is pierced only by a central bay containing the same sash type. A circa 1980 enclosed stairwell, clad with a yellow brick veneer, is nestled within the southern ell created by the main block and rear extension.

Although financial reasons played a role in the decision not to dress the elevation with marble panels, the overriding factor rested on the library's future needs. During the design phase, State Librarian and Archivist Dr. Dan M. Robison and the building commission anticipated that the library would require expansion within twenty-five years of its construction (Parrent 1951). To accommodate this eventuality, the rear stack section features panel construction, which allows for the expansion of any of the eight decks without causing damage to adjacent floors (Robison 1952). According to Robison, this flexibility in design, coupled with the available land behind the building, would allow the TSLA to more than double its capacity (Robison 1952).

The interior of the TSLA retains its original floor plan and is distinguished with ornamental detailing, which includes terrazzo marble floors, original brass light fixtures, Vermont marble wainscoting, and wood paneled offices. The Gray Knox Marble Company supplied marble for the building. Much of these embellishments

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Tennessee State Library and Archives
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are confined to the first floor and administrative offices located on the ground floor. After passing through the main entrance, patrons immediately enter the vestibule. Compared to the other rooms found in the TSLA, the vestibule is a highly decorative room accented by a terrazzo floor containing a geographical map of Tennessee, walls paneled with polished gray marble with Tennessee cedar/purple* marble baseboards and a molded cornice. Vincent Elam was the artisan who did much of the terrazzo in the building. The military plaques and chaplain crosses found on the exterior transoms are repeated within the interior doorway of the vestibule. Flanking either side of the vestibule is an entranceway highlighted by a shouldered surround composed of Tennessee cedar/purple marble. It is accessible by a series of three steps leading to an open newel stairwell featuring original aluminum railings and balusters. Wainscoting composed of Vermont gray marble accents the stairwell walls, which are illuminated by a series of brass light fixtures. A check-in counter, furnished with wood paneling and a marble countertop, is centrally placed within the vestibule. Although not original to the building, the 1980s counter conforms to the overall character of the interior of the building. Situated behind the counter are three pairs of single-light aluminum doors accented with a push bar containing decorative scrollwork. Aluminum grilles adorned with ornamental rosettes separates each door. As with the exterior door surround, these doors are embellished with a full-length multi-light aluminum transom containing a series of plaques representing each branch of the military and open book motifs. In honor of the Army medical corps a caduceus is situated on either end of the transom. This door arrangement divides the vestibule from the main hall.

Much of the same ornamentation found in the vestibule carries over into the main hall, which features a terrazzo marble floor containing the state seal, polished buff gray marble walls, and a built-in wood card catalog system that covers the entire length of the west wall. Further accenting the room are two centrally placed square columns that support a coffered ceiling adorned with hanging brass light fixtures and bordered by a molded cornice. The columns are sheathed with Tennessee cedar/purple marble and are flanked by aluminum railings. Running intermittently north and south from the marble columns, the railings originally served to separate the main hall from the area near the card catalogs, designated as the "Catalogue Room" on the original blueprints (Parrent 1951). Since Memorial Hall is no longer divided into two areas, the railings serve purely as a decorative feature. Two entranceways, accented with a shouldered surround composed of Tennessee cedar/purple* marble, are situated along the east wall and flank the primary entrance. These two openings provide additional access to the main stairwells. The stairs are composed of Virginia greenstone treads and Tennessee marble risers. Piercing both the north and south walls are two door openings containing single light wood doors. The openings feature shouldered marble surrounds that provide access to both the north and south wings.

The reading room, located south of the main hall, is lined with wood bookcases and includes an office in the northwest corner bounded by a wall composed of wood partitions. Situated just south of the office is a wood paneled counter. Modern alterations to the room include carpet over the original checkered pattern linoleum floor and new light fixtures. The library workroom, located north of the main entrance, includes two offices along the east wall featuring wood and glass partition walls and wood bookcases that line the west wall. An additional wood and glass partition wall is located at the northern end of the room forming the manuscript

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area. As with the reading room, the library workroom includes a carpeted floor and modern light fixtures. The manuscript area includes built-in bookcases and card catalogues.

The second floor of the TSLA is dominated by a centrally located lecture and exhibit room. Accessible via a corridor that runs the length of the building, the room is simple in its appearance, featuring bare white walls, modern light fixtures and a carpeted floor. An examination of historic photographs revealed that the room was originally designed in this manner and is essentially unchanged, save for the carpet and the replacement lights. A series of rooms, situated along the east wall of the main corridor, include the staff break room, storage closets, and restrooms. Located within the staff break room is a kitchenette containing original cabinetry and appliances. From the central bay, the main corridor branches out into the north and south wings respectively and is flanked by offices, conference rooms, and curatorial laboratories.

Both the third story and attic level are utilized as stack space, and are characterized by rows of adjustable metal bookshelves. As storage space, these two floors lack any ornamental embellishments; yet, they reveal the composition of the building's interior, consisting of concrete slab floors and ceilings, and concrete block walls.

Situated underneath the first floor, the ground level serves as the archives receiving room. A main passage provides access to restrooms and the two main stairwells transect the central bay. Situated west of the corridor are a locked storage room and the head archivist's office, which is highlighted with wood paneled walls and built-in bookcases. South of the central bay is the original archives search room lined with wood bookcases. Located in the room's northwest corner is a staff office composed of wood and glass partitions. The north wing is divided into two areas consisting of the archives receiving and preparation room. This area features bare white walls, modern light fixtures and a carpeted floor.

The rear eight-story extension is utilized primarily as stack space and is characterized by rows of adjustable metal bookshelves. Each floor of the main block has access to the rear extension via a door opening located in the central bay. In addition to storing books, the eastern area of the extension houses two elevator shafts and stairwells. The elevator shafts contain original cars that are accessible through a metal landing door, pierced with a single-pane window, and is attached to an interior collapsing metal gate. Located outside each elevator opening are original call buttons accompanied with a bubble floor indicator. The stairwells adjacent to the elevator shafts are simple in design, featuring concrete steps and wood handrails. A wash area, consisting of a porcelain sink, is located beside each stairwell.

Located on either side of the TSLA are marble clad retaining walls topped with coping consisting of marble blocks. The retaining walls shield the service and maintenance areas located attached to the rear extension. An employee parking lot is situated immediately behind the building.

*Because of the wide variety of marble coloring there is some confusion as to whether the marble is actually purple, as the documentation at the TSLA has, or cedar, as most current sources call it.

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Tennessee State Library and Archives
Davidson County, Tennessee

INSCRIPTIONS ON PANELS
OF
THE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES BUILDING

1.
OF ALL THE ENEMIES TO
A REPUBLICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT,
POPULAR IGNORANCE IS THE MOST
DANGEROUS; OF ALL ITS MOST
RELIABLE SAFEGUARDS, POPULAR
INTELLIGENCE IS THE BEST.

ROBERT L. TAYLOR, 1887

2.
THERE CAN BE
NO ENDURING MATERIAL
DEVELOPMENT; NO LASTING
PROSPERITY; NO SOCIAL PROGRESS,
AND NO SPIRITUAL EXPANSION
WITHOUT INTELLIGENCE

ALFRED A. TAYLOR, 1921

3.
I BEG TO COMMEND THE
STATE LIBRARY TO YOUR FAVORABLE
CONSIDERATION. . . . AN EFFICIENT METHOD
OF DISCHARGING YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL
"DUTY TO CHERISH LITERATURE AND
SCIENCE," IS BY EXTENDING YOUR AID

ISHAM G. HARRIS, 1859

4.
KNOWLEDGE, LEARNING, AND VIRTUE,
BEING ESSENTIAL TO THE PRESERVATION
OF REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS, . . . IT SHALL
BE THE DUTY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN
ALL FUTURE PERIODS . . . TO CHERISH
LITERATURE AND SCIENCE.

CONSTITUTIONS OF TENNESSEE
1834 AND 1870

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5.
... SHOULD HE EVER
FORM A TASTE FOR
READING AND IMPROVEMENT, ...
HE HAS IT IN HIS POWER TO
BECOME USEFUL TO HIMSELF
AND COUNTRY.

ANDREW JACKSON, 1829

6.
AS SOCIETY BECOMES MORE
AND MORE COMPLEX, WE NEED TO
PROVIDE ADEQUATE MEANS FOR OUR
PEOPLE TO GATHER FACTS, ESTABLISH
USEFUL THEORIES, AND TO ARRIVE
AT SOUND CONCLUSIONS.

GORDON BROWNING, 1952

7.
ALL ACQUISITIONS OF
KNOWLEDGE ... MUST
BE HELD IN TRUST FOR
THE BENEFIT OF THE
WHOLE SOCIETY

JOHN BELL, 1830

8.
... EDUCATION,
SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS
ARE RAPIDLY ENLARGING
THE MEANS OF SOCIAL
HAPPINESS.

JAMES K. POLK, 1846

9.
... LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS
MUST GO HAND IN HAND
WITH THE PROGRESS OF THE
HUMAN MIND AS THAT BECOMES
MORE DEVELOPED
AND ENLIGHTENED. ...

JIM McCORD, 1947

10.
HERE THE HUMAN MIND
GOES FORTH UNSHACKLED IN THE
PURSUIT OF SCIENCE, TO COLLECT
STORES OF KNOWLEDGE AND ACQUIRE
AN EVER-INCREASING MASTERY OVER
THE FORCES OF NATURE.

ANDREW JOHNSON, 1865

11.

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YOUR COMMITTEE . . . DEEM IT OF
PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO THE
STATE, THAT THE COLLECTION OF
BOOKS. . . BE MADE COMPLETE: THAT
THEY WOULD BE USEFUL TO YOUNG
MEN WHO DESIRE KNOWLEDGE. . .

JOINT SENATE & HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON THE STATE LIBRARY, 1855

12.
OURS IS A STATE
WHOSE HISTORY IS RICH
IN EVERYTHING THAT AN ANGLO-
SAXON HOLDS DEAR. WE HAVE A
HAPPY INSPIRATION IN HER
GLORIOUS TRADITIONS.

AUSTIN PEAY, 1925

13.
. . . IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A
PEOPLE TO MAKE ITSELF A MORE
USEFUL PRESENT THAN A COLLECTION
OF BOOKS . . . THE REAL KNOWLEDGE THAT
THE UNITED WISDOM OF THE
WORLD HAS ACCUMULATED . . .

RETURN J. MEIGS, 1855

14.
IF THIS MIND
REACHES OUT FOR ALL
THE LEARNING OF THE PAST AND ALL
THE GREAT DREAMS OF THE FUTURE,
FEED IT THAT UPON WHICH
IT WILL GROW . . .

JOHN TROTWOOD MOORE, 1922

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Tennessee State Library and Archives
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tennessee State Library and Archives building is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. Under criterion A, the building is significant in the area of education as the first suitable repository for the state's archives and library holdings, ending decades of neglect in which state records were stored in the basement and attic of the State Capitol Building. Architecturally, the TSLA is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C as a late example of a Neoclassical building. The building retains significant architectural features on the exterior and interior and has a high degree of integrity.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Planning for the Tennessee State Library and Archives building has a long history, but began in earnest in 1947 in response to an urgent need to provide a suitable repository for the vast collection of documents and book holdings acquired by the State Library. At the time of its creation in 1854, the State Library was simply required "...to collect and arrange the books and documents belonging to the State..." which were housed on the second floor of the State Capitol Building (Wisener and Polk 1854). Within the following decades the library's holdings swelled to include not only state documents, but also those of other states, including maps, newspapers, and books. Given the limited storage space and the inability to accommodate patrons, the State Library shortly ran out of room and was forced to store its holdings within the attic and basement of the State Capitol and in adjoining state buildings. This practice continued until the 1890s, as the constant flow of state records and books overwhelmed available storage space. As expected, these conditions were not particularly conducive for the preservation of the state's archival resources. Many historical records were damaged or destroyed due to exposure to moisture, dirt, and rodents. According to one account:

"...[the records] lay piled in masses on the stone floors, among old paint barrels, ashes, and trash of every description, dirt and grime. They were wet and rotting, and it was during this period that the janitor of the capitol burned up several cart loads because of the fact that they were 'wet and nasty and smelled bad.' " (Halley 1903).

In 1893, the United States Government requested that Governor Peter Turney return to Washington eighty-five trunks containing vouchers of the Quartermaster's Department left in Nashville during the Civil War (Lewis 1925). This demand finally brought attention to the problems facing the State Library and set in motion a series of attempts by various governors and state legislatures to improve the preservation and storage of state records.

To meet the request made by the United States Government, Governor Turney assigned Robert Thomas Quarles, superintendent of the Capitol, to retrieve the stored vouchers. During this effort, Quarles brought to light the deplorable conditions in which state records were stored and began a life-long commitment to preserve them. The condition of the State Library spurred Governor Turley to consider an annex to the Capitol Building to house state records; however, no action was taken (Poole 2002). Despite this setback, Quarles spent most of his free time sorting and preserving the forgotten documents within the Capitol and

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eventually gained the attention of Governor Benton McMillan after discovering large piles of uncanceled Tennessee money. Although McMillan could not secure appropriations for Quarles' work, he provided funds designated for improvements to the Capitol to stop leaks into the basement and eventually to have the records moved to a nearby armory. Surplus funds made available through the governor's office allowed Quarles to continue his work; however, the money was soon exhausted and the documents were again left alone to be damaged by rodents. In 1901, the state legislature passed a resolution calling for the formation of a committee to investigate the appropriate steps needed to preserve the state's archives. The committee recommended that a room situated in the attic above the hall of the House of Representatives within the Capitol Building be used as a permanent storage space. Unfortunately, work did not resume on the archives until circa 1903 when a \$1,200 appropriation by the state legislature was secured to cover Quarles' salary and expenses for two years under the leadership of Governor James B. Frazier (Lewis 1925). The following year, the general assembly, in cooperation with the Tennessee Historical Society, established a "Department of Archives" largely due to Quarles' efforts to preserve the state's archival records (Poole 2002). Some of the significant documents saved by Quarles include the original 1796 and 1834 state constitutions and title deeds to the Capitol and Hermitage, all of which were found in trash barrels. In addition, Quarles discovered the official North Carolina - Tennessee boundary map, which finally laid to rest disputed claims in the region and allowed the state to collect a large portion of back taxes. By the time of his death in 1914, Quarles was credited with rescuing and preserving roughly eight million state documents (Lewis 1925).

Following Quarles' death, the state legislature passed a resolution authorizing the governor to appoint an archivist to oversee the storage and preservation of state records (Ashcroft 1915). Despite the ratification of the resolution, four years passed before the position was filled. In an effort to consolidate the responsibilities of both the library and archives, the state abolished the Department of Archives and History in 1919 and reassigned the duty of caring for the state records in the newly established State Library and Archives (Gleaves 1998). That same year, Governor Albert H. Roberts appointed John Trotwood Moore as the first State Librarian and Archivist (Poole 2002).

Under Moore's tenure, which lasted until his death in 1929, the library embarked on its first effort to expand its special collections. This expansion included: the organized collection of muster rolls for Tennesseans involved in the Creek, Mexican, and Civil wars, and World War I. A Civil War questionnaire was also mailed to 5,000 veterans, of which 1,650 were returned (Thweatt 1992). As a historian and collector of manuscripts, Moore oversaw the arrangement and cataloging of land office records and unbound grants and supporting papers (Poole 2002). Highlighting Moore's achievements was the addition of the Tennessee Historical Society's collections to the State Library. With the growth of the archives, storage continued to pose a problem. In 1924, many records were transferred to the newly constructed Memorial Building; however, roughly one-third of the State Library's holdings remained stored in the basement and attic of the Capitol (Poole 2002).

Succeeding Moore was his wife Mary Daniel Moore who not only shared her husband's enthusiasm to preserve and expand the Library's holdings, but also pushed to improve storage and access to state records. During her tenure in office, the State Library participated in the Historical Records Survey sponsored by the

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Works Progress Administration. Through this program, county and cemetery records, in addition to family bibles, were copied and indexed. Book holdings also continued to grow. By the time Moore retired in 1949, the state's library and archival material reached roughly a quarter of million catalogued records (Robison 1952). With the continued growth of the state's records and growing awareness of proper archival preservation, Moore played an instrumental role in organizing support for the construction of a new state library and archives building.

At the first meeting of the Tennessee Historical Commission on December 3, 1941, construction of the present state library and archives building was proposed. During the meeting, Governor Prentice Cooper suggested that the commission initiate a publicity campaign to have a new building erected to house offices not only for itself and the Tennessee Historical Society, but also to serve as a state library and archives. For his part, Cooper promised to urge the legislature to approve appropriations for the building's construction. Unfortunately, the building campaign ended before it had a chance to start as a result of America's entry into World War II four days later (Moore 1944). Despite the war, Governor Cooper "quietly" appointed a building commission to discuss the construction of the state library and even proceeded to purchase several lots. Cooper hinted to Moore that if funding could be secured by the general assembly, the state library and archives was to be the first building to be constructed by the state in its post-war building program (Moore 1944).

After the war, the public campaign to stir interest for the state library and archives began in earnest. Led by Moore, the effort was organized and carried out by the presidents of various Tennessee women's organizations that banded together and initiated a letter writing campaign. Some of the organizations involved included: the Tennessee Farm Bureau Women's Auxiliary, the Tennessee branches of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the Tennessee Woman's Press and Authors Club (Turner 1946). Together, these groups directed letters to Governor Jim McCord, Attorney General Roy Beeler, and senators and representatives of the state legislature informing them of the urgent need for a building to house the state library and archives (Moore 1947).

In 1947, the general assembly responded to the women's campaign with the passage of House bill number 1186, which authorized the state to appropriate 1.5 million dollars in interest bearing coupon bonds for the construction of a new building. The act further mandated that the new state library and archives building be constructed as a memorial to citizens of Tennessee who served in World War II. To help facilitate planning of the building, the act called for the creation of a three member building commission, which was responsible for choosing a site and hiring an architect and the necessary contractors. As a building planned for the people of Tennessee, the commission insisted hiring an architect and contractors from Tennessee. The commission consisted of the governor as chairman, the attorney general, and the state library and archivist as secretary (Public Acts 1947 Chapter 150). During the six years it took to plan and construct the building, the building commission included governors Jim McCord and Frank Clement, Attorney General Roy H. Beeler, and State Librarian and Archivist Mary Daniel Moore and her successor, Dr. Dan Robison. In 1949, the general assembly appropriated an additional million dollars for the building's construction (Browning 1951).

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For the location of the new state library and archives building, the commission chose a site adjacent to the Supreme Court Building on Seventh Avenue North. Ground breaking occurred in 1951 after the removal of a series of 19th century residences that the state owned and utilized as offices. Architecturally, the building commission wanted the design of the state library and archives to be compatible with surrounding state buildings.

To make their vision of the building a reality, the commission hired local architect H. Clinton Parrent Jr. (b. August 6, 1902 – d. September 1967) who had recently begun his solo practice after serving as a partner with the distinguished architectural firm Hibbs, Parrent & Hall. During Parrent's tenure, the firm designed several collegiate libraries in Nashville and throughout the Southeast, including: the Joint University Library in Nashville, and libraries associated with Fisk University (NR 2/9/78), University of Tulsa, University of South Carolina, and Davidson College (Kuhlman 1947). As a local architect with extensive experience in designing libraries, Parrent was the ideal candidate for the job.

Before allowing Parrent to design the new state library and archives, the building commission spent several months studying existing state libraries in an attempt to understand modern approaches of integrating library and archival services within one building. To help them in this process, the building commission hired Dr. A. F. Kuhlman, director of the Joint University Libraries in Nashville, Randolph Church, state librarian of Virginia, and Margaret Norton, state archivist of Illinois to serve as consultants (Robison 1952). Aside from receiving written recommendations from the consultants, the building commission, along with Parrent, also toured their respective libraries. As state librarian and archivist, Robison did not limit himself to the examination of these libraries alone. He later visited the Firestone Memorial Library at Princeton, the Congressional Library, the Hall of Records of Maryland and Delaware, the National Archives, and the State Library and Archives of Georgia (Robison 1952).

After considering various proposals, the building commission, and Parrent, decided on a plan that effectively joined two buildings under one roof: the three-and-a-half story main block and the eight deck rear extension. To maximize efficiency in service and storage, the building commission adhered to three objectives. The first was to assign each of the main functions of the building (library, archival, and auxiliary) to its own floor. Secondly, the frequency of public use dictated which floor each function occupied. Lastly, the building plan needed to allow for future expansion and rearrangement (Robison 1952).

As a result, the first floor of the main block is devoted to library use, with the reading room situated in the south wing and the workroom located in the north wing. Memorial Hall is between the wings and contains the card catalogues. The library archives are located in the ground floor, which contains offices in its center portion, which is flanked by the search room in the south wing and the cleaning and fumigating areas in the north wing. The second floor functions as auxiliary space, which includes administrative offices, conference rooms, photographic and restoration laboratories, bathrooms and a break room. Storage of book holdings is reserved for the attic level of the main block and the rear eight deck extension. Panel construction of the rear extension and the non-load bearing walls found on the second story of the main block facilitate future interior and exterior changes (Robison 1952). Construction of the book and storage area was based on a

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nine-foot by nine-foot grid. The supporting posts in the area were cross (+) shaped so storage shelving could be placed adjacent to them without losing valuable storage space. Some of the distributions of costs are included in an appendix to this nomination. After two years of construction, the Tennessee State Library and Archives building was formally dedicated on June 17, 1953.

Criterion A

Under criterion A, the building is significant in the area of education. As the first suitable repository for the state's archives and library holdings, the construction of the TSLA ended decades of neglect arising from unsuitable storage in the basement and attic of the State Capitol and other state buildings. Hailed as one of the most modern library facilities in the country at the time of its dedication, the building contained the latest technical equipment such as a photographic laboratory outfitted with Photostat and microfilm machines, and a restoration laboratory, which allowed damaged books and records to be repaired and preserved (*The Nashville Tennessean* 1953). In addition, the library contained enough shelving to hold approximately two million volumes of books and archival records. The benefits of the new building to the preservation of the state's records were immediate. During Robison's tenure in the new building, 1953 to 1961, the library and archives evolved from a barely catalogued collection scattered throughout the Capitol Building and other state offices, into a library featuring 105,000 catalogued books and records (Poole 2002). During the ensuing years, the State Library and Archives initiated aggressive programs to increase its collections and to preserve existing records. Some of these initiatives include: microfilming every extant Tennessee newspaper, creating sound recordings of Tennessee legislative sessions, and the creation of a private manuscripts collection (JEA and PAM 19xx). Later, the TSLA embarked on a program to microfilm bound volumes of county records that resulted in 1,308 microfilm rolls by 1964 (Poole 2002).

In the first modern effort to improve the organization of state records, the state legislature created the Public Records Commission and its administrative branch the Records Management Division during the mid 1970s. These agencies are responsible for sorting and identifying vital and historical state records, and providing for the disposition, storage, and retrieval of inactive records. Within the past twenty years the TSLA has continued to improve the preservation of state and county records by microfilming loose records such as deeds, wills, marriage and divorce papers, and duplicating historic photographs. In concert with the state's bicentennial celebration in 1996, the TSLA sponsored a World War II questionnaire for Tennessee veterans, in which 7,555 responses were received (Poole 2002).

Today, the TSLA's holdings consist of over one million items (not including original records) of which roughly half are books and periodicals. The remaining items include photographs, maps, tapes, microforms, and non-print materials. Approximately 27 million official records and 4.8 million manuscripts make up the archival and manuscript collections, which span from the pre-statehood period to the present. To efficiently operate these vast holdings, the library employs over 90 archivists, librarians, assistants, and specialists in photography, computer networking and microfilming (Gleaves 1992). In 1984, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped moved into the building (Poole 2003).

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Criterion C

Architecturally, the TSLA is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C as a late example of a Neoclassical building. Sparked by a renewed interest in classical architecture, the style made its debut on the stage of American building design during the World's Columbia Exposition of 1893 in Chicago. In keeping with the classical genre, the Neoclassical style emphasizes a symmetrical facade featuring a central entrance shielded by a full-height porch with a roof supported by classical columns. The style dominated domestic architecture into the early 1950s and evolved into two distinct phases. The first occurred roughly between 1900 and 1920 and was identified by ornate, correct columns and hipped roofs. The second phase, which lasted until circa 1950, stressed plain, slender columns and side-gabled roofs (McAlester 1998). Completed in 1953, the TSLA is a late example of the second phase of Neoclassical architecture.

Despite the growing popularity of post-war contemporary architecture that rejected historical precedents, the building commission felt compelled to design the TSLA so that it complemented the Capitol and State Supreme Court Buildings. According to Robison:

We wanted our building to fit in with the Capitol and Supreme Court Building without imitating either, therefore slight projecting pilasters suggest the deep pilasters of the Supreme Court Building, while our six Roman Ionic columns suggest the Greek Ionic columns of the Capitol. In height we do not top the Supreme Court Building nor do we obstruct the view of the Capitol. Expansion must be to the rear and not upwards (Robison 1952).

An examination of Parrent's preliminary drawings of the building reveals additional classical embellishments; however, these were later removed in favor of a more streamlined, modern effect. Specifically, these changes focused on the main entrance in which Parrent's initial sketches illustrate a central door capped with a pedimented hood flanked by two additional doors crowned with a simple entablature (Parrent 1950). Parrent later redesigned the main entrance with an Art Deco flair by installing aluminum doors and grilles bordered by a surround marked with rosettes. Although the exact reason for this change was not documented, it is likely that this was an attempt to introduce Art Deco embellishments similar to those expressed in the Tennessee Supreme Court Building to offset the level of classical detailing initially planned for the building.

The classical elements found on the facade carry over into the interior of the TSLA, but are confined mainly to the vestibule and Memorial Hall. Both of these rooms feature door and entrance openings with shouldered marble surrounds and molded cornices. Accompanying these classical details are Art Deco embellishments, which includes the repetition of the main door surround within the vestibule, and aluminum balusters and railings found inside the flanking stairwells. Through its unmistakable classical elements, the TSLA is presented as a Neoclassical building, which successfully merges the Greek Revival and Art Deco characteristics respectively found on the Capitol and Supreme Court Buildings.

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With its historical significance in the area of education as the first suitable repository for the state's archives and library holdings, and its superb representation of a Neoclassical building, the Tennessee State Library and Archives fulfills the eligibility requirements for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C.

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Thomas Woodard provided additional information in this nomination on September 24, 2002. Mr. Woodard is an architect who worked with Parrent and drew some of the plans for the library.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The boundary for the Tennessee State Library and Archives is delineated on the accompanying tax map (scale 1" = approximately 230'). for Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee. The nominated boundary includes approximately 1.4 acres containing the building, the rear parking area, and surrounding grounds. The parcel is roughly 230' x 345' as shown on the attached map.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photos: Ted Karpynek
Slides: Steve Rogers and Ted Karpynek
Date: July and August 2003
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

Photo 1 of 34
Detail of facade portico, facing west.

Photo 2 of 34
Facade and south elevation, facing northwest.

Photo 3 of 34
Facade, facing southwest.

Photo 4 of 34
West (rear) elevation, facing southeast.

Photo 5 of 34
West (rear) elevation, facing northeast.

Photo 6 of 34
North elevation, facing south.

Photo 7 of 34
Detail of rear extension, facing north.

Photo 8 of 34
Looking from vestibule into library, showing interior doors and surrounds.

Photo 9 of 34
Card catalogue in Memorial Hall, facing southwest.

Photo 10 of 34
Card catalogue in Memorial Hall

Photo 11 of 34
Coffered ceiling and light fixture in Memorial Hall, facing west.

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Photo 12 of 34

Detail of typical light fixture in main stairwells, facing west.

Photo 13 of 34

Memorial Hall overview

Photo 14 of 34

Seal of Tennessee, Memorial Hall, facing west.

Photo 15 of 34

Detail of terrazzo floor with map of Tennessee in vestibule, facing west.

Photo 16 of 34

Vestibule, facing south.

Photo 17 of 34

Detail of stairwell, facing east.

Photo 18 of 34

Detail of stair, looking into vestibule

Photo 19 of 34

Detail of door surround in south wing, facing north.

Photo 20 of 34

Adjustable metal shelving, ground floor, facing north

Photo 21 of 34

Reading room in south wing, facing south.

Photo 22 of 34

Information desk

Photo 23 of 34

Looking into manuscript room, facing northwest.

Photo 24 of 34

Staff offices in north wing, facing southeast.

Photo 25 of 34

Kitchenette in staff break room, second floor, facing northwest.

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Conference room, second floor, facing north.

Photo 27 of 34

Photo lab, second floor, facing south.

Photo 28 of 34

Restoration room, facing east.

Photo 29 of 34

Elevator, ground floor, facing southwest.

Photo 30 of 34

Adjustable metal shelving, ground floor, facing north.

Photo 31 of 34

Stacks

Photo 32 of 34

Card catalogue

Photo 33 of 34

Bathroom showing original features

Photo 34 of 34

Upstairs hall